

WEEKLY BULLETIN



CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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GUY P. JONES
Editor

CHILD HEALTH AND THE WAR

This war will not last forever and when peace comes the new generation must be of a sort that has physical stamina and endurance. This is not the time to neglect any activity that has to do with the promotion and maintenance of health in children. Many activities in public health may be submerged in this emergency, but not child hygiene. Unless the children of today are physically equipped to carry the burden that will fall upon them after the war is over, the whole future of this country may be placed in great jeopardy.

An editorial in the September Journal Lancet, published in Minneapolis states: "The mind and body of the Nation is assuming duties hourly so that our country will not fail to win. The complacency of our every day lives has necessarily been sacrificed. Young men are actively fighting, fathers are working overtime to build the war machines, and mothers are making adjustments adequately as they are needed, doing what is essential and banishing what is non-essential in the home. But what about our children? Shall they be pushed to the background or shall we find time to give them good care in spite of the heavy burdens placed upon us by the war. By all means, let us do the latter, not by writing extensive programs which read well and lead to little, but instead by concentrating repeatedly on the following plan.

"We must see that children receive foods for their nutritive value and omit luxuries. Food rationing will make mothers more eager to learn new and simple diets for maintaining the health of their children. We must see that children are immunized against conta-

gious diseases with their dangerous complications. All of us will now cooperate by approving methods for the prevention of disease. The opposition has no place in wartime."

Every child in California at this time should have his health safeguarded more securely than ever before. Communicable diseases must be kept under control with every device that is known. Every health officer has a distinct duty in carrying on routine functions that will promote the general health and well-being in his community. Short-range programs in nutrition are indicated for men and women who are employed in war industries, but long-range programs are indicated in the provision of adequate nutrition for children. There should be no diminution of efforts to teach mothers every possible attribute in child care.

Those features of the child health program that are carried on routinely should be maintained in this emergency whatever the cost may be.

MUSSEL QUARANTINE ENDS

The 1942 annual quarantine of mussels along the California ocean shore terminated October 31, 1942. This quarantine was established May 1, 1942, and under its regulations the sale or offering for sale of mussels has been prohibited during the six-month period during which these shell fish are toxic. No outbreaks of mussel poisoning have occurred during the past six months which indicates that the enforcement of the quarantine has been efficient and has been observed by the general public.

SAN FRANCISCO OPENS PROPHYLACTIC STATIONS

Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, announces the opening of three prophylactic stations operated by the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health in cooperation with the United States Army and United States Navy. These prophylactic stations are located at the Central Emergency Hospital, 135 Polk Street; the Harbor Emergency Hospital, 88 Sacramento Street; the Army medical station, 143 Eddy Street, San Francisco. The personnel for the operation of the prophylactic station located at the Harbor Emergency Hospital is furnished through the cooperation of the Twelfth Naval District, and the stations operated at the Central Emergency Hospital and the Army medical station are furnished through the cooperation of the Fourth Army Headquarters. All supplies and equipment are furnished through the Division of Venereal Diseases of the San Francisco Health Department.

The operation of these prophylactic stations is unique in that prophylaxis is administered to civilians as well as members of the armed forces. During the first month of the operation of the stations, 23 per cent of prophylaxis was administered to civilians. In order to secure adequate publicity for these stations, 5,000 lavatory placards were distributed throughout the City of San Francisco in lavatories of hotels, garages, pool halls, dance halls, bars and taverns. These were posted by members of the United States Army and United States Navy in addition to representatives of the local health department.

Arrangements have been made to distribute 500,000 leaflets advertising the location of prophylactic stations to members of the armed forces in the San Francisco area. These placards will be distributed to all members of the Pacific Fleet debarking ships in the San Francisco area. It is anticipated that this prophylactic service will materially lessen the incidence of venereal diseases among soldiers, sailors, and war workers in the San Francisco area.

PREMARITAL TESTS

During September, 15,941 premarital tests were performed in laboratories scattered throughout the State. Of these, 243 or 1.52 per cent proved positive. Since the law became effective in September of 1939, 359,759 premarital blood tests have been performed in California. Of these 1.53 per cent proved positive.

"The greatest asset of a man, a business or a nation is faith."—Thomas J. Watson.

RODENT PLAGUE SURVEY

During the month of September, rodent plague surveys were conducted in portions of Los Angeles, Amador, Alpine, Mono, Alameda, Marin, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Ventura, San Bernardino, Solano, Sacramento, Nevada, Del Norte, Riverside, Humboldt, Placer, San Joaquin, Yuba, Monterey, Santa Cruz and Siskiyou counties.

A total of 4,938 animals was collected and examined and more than 39,000 fleas taken from these animals were sent to the laboratory for examination. Bubonic plague was demonstrated in ticks and fleas in Monterey County, a ground squirrel and fleas from Los Angeles County, fleas from ground squirrels and chipmunks from El Dorado County and fleas from chipmunks in Modoc County.

Rodents collected consisted mostly of ground squirrels, chipmunks, Norwegian rats, field and meadow mice. During the month, military areas were inspected in the following counties: Marin, Alameda, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Humboldt, Del Norte and Yuba.

Assistance was given to health officers of several counties in the investigation of ranches where plague had been demonstrated during past years. In one county active help was given in outlining a rodent eradication campaign. Specimens taken will be examined by a field crew and one unit will assist in the activity. Particular attention was given to the rodent situation in the vicinity of military areas in the San Francisco Bay region. Officers in charge of military areas have expressed the desire for continued rodent plague surveys in the areas under their jurisdiction. Many such surveys will be started early in October. The county agriculture bureaus are giving active assistance in such surveys.

LABORATORY TESTS FOR VENEREAL DISEASES

The following tests were performed in the State Laboratory during September:

Gonococcus smears	369
Wassermann tests	10,418
Kahn tests	9,803
Kline tests	82,637

The following tests were performed for Selective Service during September:

Kline	70,604
Kahn	7,535
Kolmer	7,889

CARBONATED BEVERAGES

Sampling of a carbonated beverage has revealed the presence of monochloroacetic acid in the product. Since this preservative is prohibited, a change has been made to sodium benzoate which is permissible. All previous stocks were called in for condemnation and destruction. Because some of the products are in interstate commerce, the United States Food and Drug Administration was notified of the findings.

Dealers have been warned not to substitute root beer for a cola drink without informing the purchaser. Substitutions of this sort without the customer knowing what he is getting will lead to difficulties.

PRENATAL TESTS

During September, 13,015 prenatal tests were made in laboratories throughout the State. Of this number, 221 or 1.7 per cent proved positive. Since the prenatal law became effective in September of 1939, 408,888 prenatal tests have been performed in laboratories throughout the State. Of these, 1.48 per cent proved positive.

DISTILLED SPIRITS

Out of 100 "on sale" inspections made during September, adulterated liquors were found in only two places. Eleven bottles of refilled Scotch were found in a cafe in San Francisco and five bottles of assorted liquors were found in another location in the same city. In general, "on sale" establishments are operating in a law-abiding manner.

A wholesaler of meats in a southern county was found to be selling adulterated meat products to an Army commissary. As a result, the dealer's contract which brought about \$10,000 to the firm each month was cancelled.

Cases of alleged sabotage in foods and drugs are reported to the bureau and most of them are found groundless. In one community, however, glass was found in sausages and frankfurters. Investigation in cooperation with local police and the F.B.I. disclosed that one employee had been a private in the German Army during the last war. While the presence of glass in the sausage may have been coincidental, it is probable that the man's citizenship will be revoked.

"Our most valuable possessions are those which can be shared without lessening—those which, when shared, multiply. Our least valuable possessions, on the other hand, are those which, when divided, are diminished."—William H. Danford.

REVISED LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES*Reportable Only:*

Anthrax
 Botulism—if commercial product notify State Department of Health at once.
 Coccidioidal Granuloma
 Dengue—keep patient in mosquito-free room.
 Epilepsy
 Food Poisoning
 Glanders—report by phone or telegraph.
 Jaundice—infectious or epidemic types.
 Malaria—keep patient in mosquito-free room.
 Pneumonia—specify type of pneumococcus, if known.
 Relapsing Fever
 Rheumatic Fever
 Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
 Tetanus
 Trichinosis
 Tularemia
 Undulant Fever

Reportable and Subject to Isolation:

Epidemic diarrhea of the newborn (in institutions)
 Chickenpox
 Dysentery—Amoebic
 Dysentery—Bacillary—specify type, if known.
 German Measles
 Influenza
 Measles
 Mumps
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum
 Psittacosis
 Rabies—in animals. Use special card.
 Rabies—in humans.
 Septic Sore Throat (in epidemic form).
 Trachoma
 Tuberculosis—use special card.
 Whooping Cough
 Syphilis—use special card.
 Gonorrhea—use special card.
 Chancroid—use special card.
 Lymphopathia Venereum—use special card.
 Granuloma—Inguinale—use special card.

Reportable and Subject to Quarantine and Placarding:

Cholera—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.
 Diphtheria
 Encephalitis (Infectious)—specify type, if known.

NOTE: This means all forms of acute encephalitis such as St. Louis type, equine type, and any other epidemic form occurring in California.

Leprosy
 Meningitis (due to the meningococcus).
 Paratyphoid Fever—specify type A or B.

REVISED LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES—Continued

Plague—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

Scarlet Fever

Smallpox

Typhoid Fever

Typhus Fever

Yellow Fever—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.

MORBIDITY*

Complete Reports for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week Ending October 24, 1942

Chickenpox

253 cases from the following counties: Alameda 10, Contra Costa 10, Fresno 8, Humboldt 6, Inyo 2, Kern 15, Lassen 2, Los Angeles 39, Madera 4, Merced 3, Modoc 24, Orange 20, Riverside 2, Sacramento 11, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 3, San Francisco 31, San Joaquin 4, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo 9, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 9, Santa Cruz 1, Solano 1, Stanislaus 27, Tehama 3, Tulare 2.

German Measles

51 cases from the following counties: Alameda 11, Inyo 5, Los Angeles 12, Modoc 17, Monterey 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3, Shasta 1.

Measles

43 cases from the following counties: Alameda 3, Butte 1, Fresno 1, Humboldt 1, Inyo 1, Los Angeles 21, Marin 1, Modoc 2, Plumas 3, San Diego 2, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz 1.

Mumps

296 cases from the following counties: Alameda 40, Butte 3, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 4, Humboldt 17, Inyo 1, Kern 2, Los Angeles 94, Merced 3, Modoc 2, Monterey 2, Orange 9, Plumas 14, Riverside 6, Sacramento 1, San Benito 1, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 13, San Francisco 20, San Joaquin 12, San Luis Obispo 5, San Mateo 2, Santa Clara 21, Santa Cruz 7, Shasta 2, Stanislaus 7, Tehama 1, Tulare 1, Ventura 1.

Scarlet Fever

94 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Fresno 4, Inyo 2, Kern 5, Lassen 19, Los Angeles 31, Madera 1, Merced 1, Orange 3, Plumas 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 7, San Diego 2, San Francisco 4, San Luis Obispo 1, Solano 4, Sutter 2, Tulare 1, Ventura 2, Yuba 1.

Whooping Cough

229 cases from the following counties: Alameda 55, Butte 1, Contra Costa 2, Fresno 3, Humboldt 4, Kern 4, Los Angeles 80, Madera 2, Monterey 6, Orange 16, Sacramento 1, San Benito 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 13, San Francisco 7, San Joaquin 6, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo 3, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara 5, Santa Cruz 5, Siskiyou 1, Stanislaus 4, Ventura 5.

Diphtheria

18 cases from the following counties: Fresno 3, Los Angeles 8, Napa 2, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin 1.

Epilepsy

48 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Los Angeles 36, Orange 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 2, San Francisco 4, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Cruz 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases from the following counties: Sacramento 1, Tulare 1.

Diarrhea of Newborn (Epidemic)

5 cases from Los Angeles County.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

11 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Los Angeles 9, San Francisco 1.

Encephalitis (Infectious)

2 cases from the following counties: Sacramento 1, Ventura 1.

Food Poisoning

2 cases from San Diego County.

* Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

Influenza (Infectious)

26 cases reported in the State.

Malaria

3 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 2, Yuba 1.

Meningitis (Meningococcic)

5 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Los Angeles 3, San Mateo 1.

Pneumonia (Infectious)

53 cases reported in the State.

Poliomyelitis (Acute Anterior)

19 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 16, San Bernardino 2, Solano 1.

Rabies (Animal)

7 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Los Angeles 4, Madera 1, San Benito 1.

Relapsing Fever

One case from San Bernardino County.

Rheumatic Fever (Acute)

One case from Sacramento County.

Typhoid Fever

3 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 1.

Undulant Fever

8 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 5, Mendocino 1, Sacramento 1.

We must always be as strong and eager to maintain anything that we value as we were strong and eager to win it in the first place. This is a general law of life. It applies to holding the love of a wife after you have won it, to living a life of high ideals after you have discovered them, to maintaining your professional skill after you have gained it, to keeping money after you have earned it; it applies to our freedom, won by centuries of human struggle and self-discipline, for if we are not ever alert and strong to keep it, freedom can be lost very rapidly—by sudden disaster or by insidious encroachments; it will apply to whatever form of improved world order emerges from the present struggle.—Dr. Karl T. Compton, Addressed to the 1942 class Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"We American writers have one of the great stories of the world to tell, if we have the wit to tell it truly. There is no surer way that I know, of fitting ourselves for the future, than by gaining an understanding of what the ordinary citizen, who has to work for his living, has been doing and thinking and hoping through the course of formal history."—Walter D. Edmonds.

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